



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL COMMAND
2050 WORTH ROAD
FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MCDS

17 June 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR All U.S. Army Dental Command Personnel

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Dental Command (DENCOM) Policy 03-05,
Utilization of Preventive Dentistry Specialists (91EX2) and
Dental Hygienists (91EM9)

1. SCOPE: This policy applies to all DENCOM facilities and the 91EX2 and 91EM9 personnel assigned to or working in those facilities.

2. POLICY:

a. Enlisted preventive dentistry specialists and registered dental hygienists possess expanded patient care skills beyond those of a dental assistant. The proper utilization of these soldiers is at the dental chair where they can effectively contribute to our patient care mission.

b. Enlisted preventive dentistry specialists (91EX2) and enlisted registered dental hygienists (91EM9) in the grade of E-4 and below will devote at least 85% and 100% of their available duty time to direct patient care, respectively.

c. Enlisted preventive dentistry specialists (91EX2) and enlisted registered dental hygienists (91EM9) in the grade of E-5 will devote at least 70% of their available duty time to direct patient care. The DENTAC commander may reduce the percentage of direct patient care time for an individual who is also the clinic NCOIC.

d. The use of enlisted preventive dentistry specialists and registered dental hygienists in an expanded function role using team dentistry is highly encouraged.

e. Regional Dental Commanders may approve exceptions to this policy in cases where:

(1) A Dental Activity (DENTAC) has met both the 95% Class 1 or 2 dental readiness goal and access standard of seven days for routine hygiene appointments.

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(2) Compliance with this policy detracts from the patient care mission because of enlisted strength or skill imbalances.

f. This policy supports the DENCOM operational philosophy of returning care providers to the chair whenever possible. Administrative staff should provide support services while those with patient care skills treat patients. Officers, soldiers, and civilians can demonstrate their abilities, leadership, and potential for career advancement through their performance within the operatory. The ability to move soldiers into optimal oral health is our greatest achievement.

g. Compliance with this policy will be incorporated into organizational assessment programs. Direct responsibility to enforce this policy will be the Regional SGM or the Senior Dental NCO.

h. The point of contact is SGM Spadaro at DSN 471-6528.

SIDNEY A. BROOKS
Colonel, Dental Corps
Commanding